

'We want a good, solid plan' – Cllr. Aronson

City orders new master bike plan from Vélo-Québec

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

At the height of the summer holiday period, city council July 2 authorized a cost of up to \$56,586 to Vélo-Québec for professional services to develop "a bicycle master plan" for the city. This is a non-profit organization.

The last bike plan took place in 2013 as part of the city's 101-page Traffic and Active Transportation Master Plan, conducted and presented by Genivar Inc. (now WSP). (See stories June 25, 2019 and July 9, 2019, p. 6.)

Under that plan, new north-south bike lanes were created to connect to east-west bike routes on de Maisonneuve, Côte St. Antoine and Westmount Ave.

The new lanes were created on Redfern northbound and Lansdowne southbound from Côte St. Antoine as well as lanes both ways on portions of Claremont (see story July 9, 2019, p. 6).

The recent call for a new bicycle master plan was moved in a resolution by Councillor Matt Aronson, with the contract to be signed by city employee Tom Flies, as principal director of project implementation and territory management.

"We want a good, solid plan," stated Aronson, whose commissionership includes sustainability and active transportation.

The mood is electric, for some



Medhi was cleaning his Tesla at the charging station in front of Victoria Hall August 24. The Atlas Taxi driver has only owned it for four months but loves it. With a range of around 500 kilometers, it is no problem for him to operate all day.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Westmount's Terry Fox run to return after one-year hiatus!
See p. 10

Special Sunday feature: antique cars

Greene festival, sidewalk sale to close street Sept. 7-8

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Greene Ave. between Sherbrooke and de Maisonneuve is to be closed to traffic during Saturday and Sunday September 7 and 8 for a street and sidewalk sale on the Saturday followed by an antique car show on the Sunday, 11 am to 4 pm.

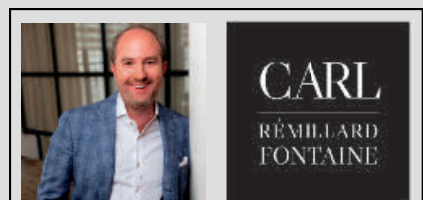
The Greene parking lot is to be accessible from Olivier.

Announced last week, Cynthia Lulham, general manager of the Quartier Greene Merchants' Association, said the Saturday events are expected to include a fashion parade, juggler, stilt walker, face painting, dance show and live music.

On the Sunday, however, the antique car show from Voitures Anciennes du Québec, a group comprising more than 2,500 members, is to

continued on p. 3

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Featured Recent Acquisition

Nora Collyer (1898-1979)

Trafalgar Day, Place Jacques Cartier, Montreal

Oil on board

10 1/2 x 8 5/8 in

26.8 x 22 cm

This painting is on view in our Montreal Gallery and at Klinkhoff.ca

Provenance

Family of the artist

Nora Collyer was the youngest of the ten women artists known today as the Beaver Hall Group. She shared a studio with fellow member Anne Savage at 305 Beaver Hall Hill from 1921 to 1923. Collyer studied art with William Brymner and Maurice Cullen at the Art Association of Montreal. She taught art at Trafalgar School for Girls and offered private lessons from her studio on Elm Street. Collyer primarily painted still lifes from her studio or landscapes in the vicinity of Montreal, where she would travel during the summer or on weekends.

Trafalgar Day, Place Jacques Cartier, Montreal is a rare urban painting by Collyer and holds historical significance. Nelson's Column, an iconic monument situated in Montreal's Place Jacques-Cartier, was erected in 1809 to commemorate the victory at the Battle of Trafalgar. Trafalgar Day, the annual commemoration of this historic naval battle, used to be observed in Montreal at this location. The blue berets worn by the members of the Royal Canadian Navy indicate that the ceremony depicted in the painting took place during World War II. Archival photographs suggest that she likely painted the 1942 Trafalgar Day ceremony, shortly after the Battle of Dieppe, when momentum had begun to shift in favour of the Allied Forces. This painting has never previously been offered for sale.



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It doesn't get Greene-r than this



Westmount green patrollers Brandon and Adeze were doing their job August 20 on Greene Ave. near Sherbrooke by inspecting green (compost) and blue (recycling) bins and educating individuals on the street in proper waste management. Their work mandate came courtesy of the Environment division of Public Works.

PHOTO: JENNIFER BALL

Gas line struck, resulting measures block busy Saturday strip on Victoria

In the midst of the usual Saturday morning shopping congestion on Victoria south of the Metro grocery store, a contractor working August 17 at the office building at 245 Victoria struck a gas line, bringing emergency vehicles to the scene, including the fire department's bus to shelter those evacuated. This was parked on Victoria across from Somerville.

Public Security officials said they were called to the scene at 10:52 am and spent until 2:08 pm directing traffic and blocking the street from St. Catherine to Sherbrooke.

"The perimeter of the area was also blocked to traffic," said department director Greg McBain. – LS.

Public Security flagged down by driver in respiratory distress

A Public Security patroller was flagged down August 20 by the driver of a car in "respiratory distress," department officials said.

The woman had parked illegally on St. Catherine next to the Royal Montreal Regiment.

While waiting for Urgences Santé, the patroller went to the woman's assistance with a first aid kit and defibrillator from the patrol vehicle as a second car arrived for back-up, followed quickly by an ambulance.

The victim, whose age was not recorded, was transported to hospital but no other details were recorded in the report owing to the quick action required. – LS.

Greene festival, cont'd from p. 1

display more than 30 cars dating in age from a minimum of 25 years and back to the early 1900s. "The owners will compete for 10 trophies to be awarded during the day," Lulham said.

Times and details are to be listed on the Quarter Greene website at www.quarter-greene.ca.

"All events and activities are free," she said.

The fall event is timed for back-to-school and "back to the community. In the event of a rainy weekend, the event will take place the next weekend."

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 Social Notes:
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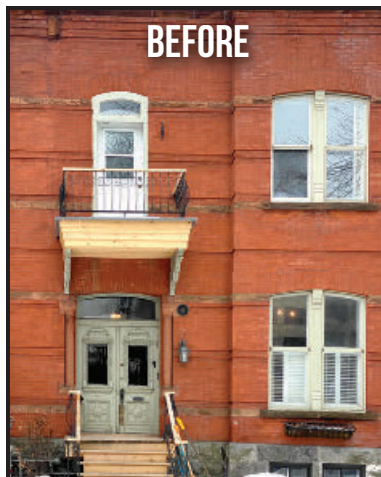
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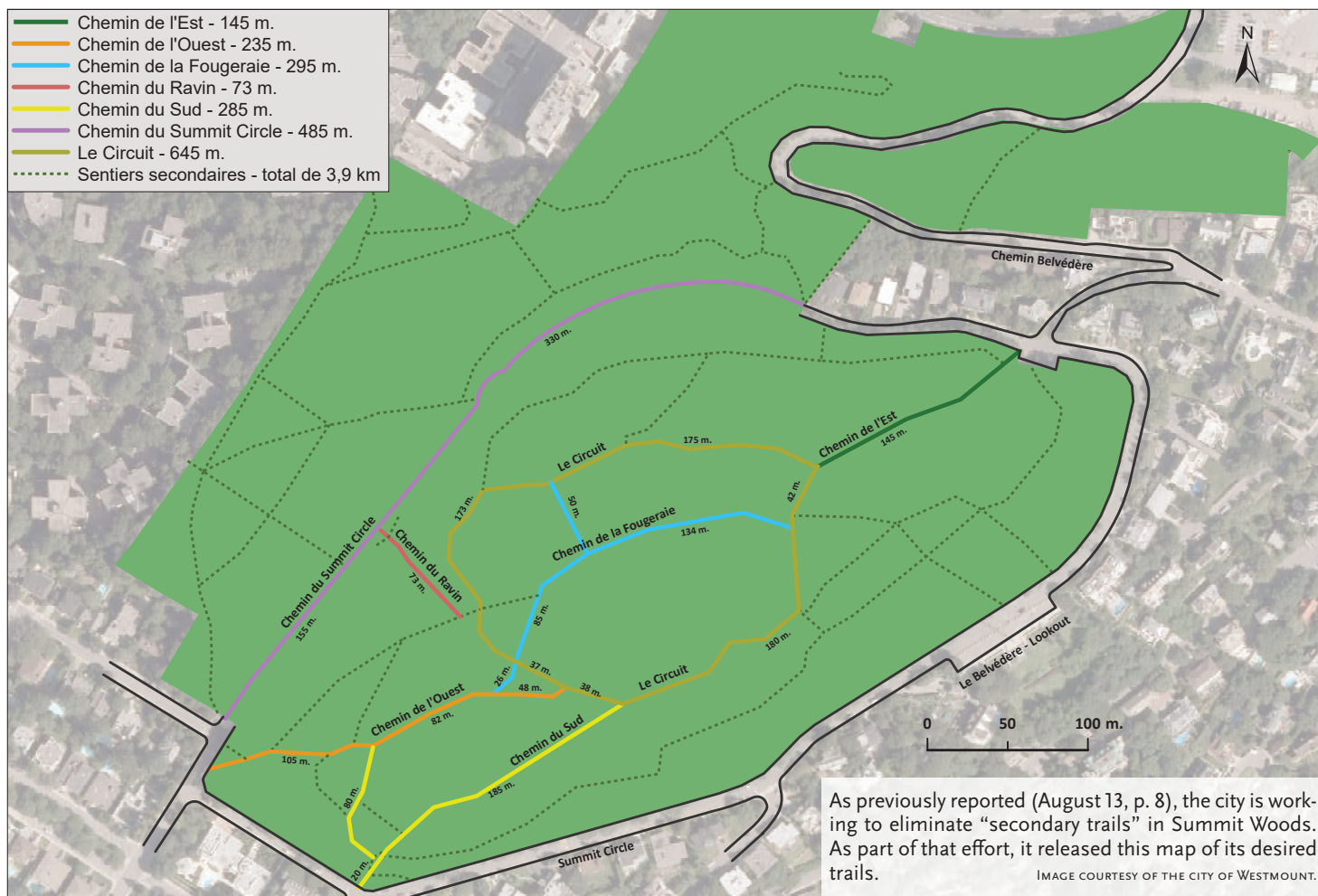
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 — Chemin du Summit Circle - 485 m.
 — Le Circuit - 645 m.
 - - - Sentiers secondaires - total de 3,9 km

As previously reported (August 13, p. 8), the city is working to eliminate "secondary trails" in Summit Woods. As part of that effort, it released this map of its desired trails.

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT.

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Council upholds PAC recommendations to deny 3 permits

Landscaping, rooftop terrasse, doors and windows: a tale of 3 permit refusals

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The plans and hopes of three property owners to carry on different types of renovation were rejected by city council August

5, demonstrating how closely the city requires adherence to its longstanding building and planning regulations and how carefully it considers their impact on the neighbourhood.

These involved a request dating back to 2018 for a rooftop terrasse at 17 Bellevue as well as one for landscaping a backyard at 55 Belvedere Circle and another for windows at 38 Anwoth that had already been

installed without a permit. All cases involved properties with Category 2 heritage ratings and unfavourable recommendations to council by the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

Landscaping plan refused at rear of 55 Belvedere Circle



55 Belvedere Circle.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The request for a landscaping permit “to change the topographic level” in the rear yard at 55 Belvedere Circle was refused by the city council at its meeting August 5. This was based on an unfavourable recommendation to council by the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

Several reasons given in minutes of the PAC include that natural elements “important to the overall character of the site” should be preserved.

These elements, it states, included “escarpments, rock outcroppings, old retaining walls and stairs.” Also mentioned were terrasses, pergolas and other separate garden structures described as required to be integrated into the character of the site.

Most of these reasons had previously been challenged, property owner Anthony Amiel told the *Independent*. The current landscaping permit application had been many months in discussion with the city’s Urban Planning department and had faced “many obstacles.”

It had already been split into two, one for the front and the current one in the rear, and is now being split into three.

Inconsistency?

“What we wanted to do,” Amiel explained, “was to move a wall three feet to install an outdoor kitchen so we could supervise the kids in the pool.” He contended that there was an “inconsistency” – “what had been allowed for one neighbour and not for another.”

Details in the PAC recommendation presented to the council added that “projects must be designed and located in such a way as to reduce the volumes of backfill and excavated materials, and that transitions between ground level and that of neighbouring ground or traffic lanes have a minimum impact on the latter.”

The plans and details were reported as submitted by Myke Hodgins & Associates April 30, though the original application to Urban Planning was reported in June to have been nine months in the making.

Patio doors rejected after the fact for 38 Anwoth

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council August 5 refused the request for a permit to install rear patio doors at 38 Anwoth Rd., after the proposed ones were found to have already been installed without a permit.

This was one of several reasons listed by the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) in recommending that the council refuse the permit request.

“Whereas modification to existing openings or the addition of new ones could be considered on secondary façades of a Category 2 house provided they respect the general design principles of the style of building,” it stated.

The windows themselves would also be required to use the same designs of the existing ones on secondary façades and compatible with the massing, size, scales and architectural details of the building and harmonize with it.

It also stated that “sympathetic” alterations and additions “may be allowed provided they do not adversely affect the essential character of the building itself.”

The summary provided to the public meeting stated it had been prepared and submitted by the Montreal Design windows company.

Rooftop terrasse again refused for 17 Bellevue



17 Bellevue

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The rejected application to build a roof terrasse at 17 Bellevue was described as “reiterating” requests initially submitted in 2018 and revised in 2019 and 2020. Each time, the proposal had received an unfavourable recommendation to the council from the city’s Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) based on By-law 1305.

The main reasons cited in the recent August council resolution stated that the

residence of one-and-a-half storeys on a steep street on the “upper side” of the mountain meant that the presence of railings and screens from the terrasse would be visible from the street and therefore “detrimental to the design of building’s elevations.”

Further details were contained in an annex that was not submitted as part of the public resolution and not made public. The current design was submitted in June 2021 by Westmount architect Philip Hazan.



38 Anwoth. All photos August 23 by the Independent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PLEASE DON'T SUBJECT US
TO RABID CHRISTIAN
FUNDAMENTALISM

Congratulations on the rage bait. As usual, I can look to the *Westmount Independent* to make sure I never suffer from low-blood pressure. I was unaware that publishing hate-filled tirades of religious extremism was a trend that the publication wanted to chase, but “Leviathan” (letter, August 13, p. 6) is apparently a prime concern.

Subjected to one bigoted rejection of a ceremony dedicated to the celebration and joy of *all* humanity, what's next? Letters calling for drag queens to no longer do story hour at libraries? Pride stickers to be removed from radical hotbed Starbucks?

Love to see the rabid Christian fundamentalism given a platform. Because that sort of short-sighted close-mindedness is definitely something that we want to bring back out of Quebec's own recent past.

Also, it's a Dionysus/Bacchus reference, silly.

ISADORA JONES, CLAREMONT AVE.

***Editor's reply:** “Next?” We've already published at least two anti-drag-queens-reading-to-children letters (April 4, 2023, p. 6) and been condemned by someone with similar view to yours (April 18, 2023, p. 12). To repeat what I wrote then: “Freedom of speech for you, but not for others? Not here.” – DP.

PLEASE DON'T SUBJECT COUNCIL
TO 'SOAP BOXING'

At the city council meeting of August 5, no less than eight questions about Claremont were asked during the first question period. This was a not-so-refreshing change from the incessant questioning about dogs at Summit Woods.

In particular, we see that instead of asking a question, people use this as a “soap box” to lecture the council, who in fact do their best to serve the community in good faith. Further, monopolizing the meeting with one issue deprives other residents of their legitimate time.

Fortunately, Westmount residents have multiple ways of expressing their concerns on local issues including letters to the *Independent*, personal meetings with councillors, written questions at council meetings, e-mails to councillors, petitions, and direct questions at council meetings.

It seems to me that trying to gang up on the council at question period is an abuse of the freedoms that we do have, and that our mayor has been particularly patient and tolerant in allowing this.

It would not be surprising if changes to the question period protocol were implemented, which was actually suggested by one person at this last meeting.

GARY IKEMAN, ST. CATHERINE ST.

Editor's note: Gary Ikeman was a city councillor from 2009 to 2013. – DP.

THANKS FOR THE GREENHOUSE



Ahhh, the Westmount greenhouse. It is so beautiful! With patience, the gardeners have really managed to transform it into a beautiful work of art. My wife and I really enjoy coming here. With the changing seasons, there seems to be always something to admire. While not in this picture, as there were no bananas anymore, the tree is still quite lovely, not to mention the wondrous selection of flowers and, and, and.

ALFRED EDEL, VICTORIA AVE.

POLLUTING PILOT PROJECT

Re “The Claremont Triangle” (August 20, p. 10).

Before the recent “pilot,” there were two lanes for traffic at this corner (one east-bound and one southbound) plus a drop-off space for Marianopolis students.

Even then, on school days around 8 am traffic on NDG Ave. was often backed up to Northcliffe or Decarie Blvd. Cars bringing students to Villa Maria, Marianopolis and Roslyn School all use NDG Ave., and represent a large percentage of the traffic. This is additional to the regular morning business traffic.

Currently, there is a single lane for all traffic, including buses. And even though [primary and secondary] school hasn't yet started, the traffic was jammed at 8:15 [August 22] as I tried to enter NDG Ave. from Marlowe. Is Westmount dreaming that all these students will bicycle or use the bus?

It would appear that there has been no consultation between Westmount and the [Côte des Neiges-] NDG borough, for Westmount's proposed solution is creating havoc for those having to use NDG Ave.

Much as I am for cycle lanes and green space, this “pilot” is just creating more pollution.

COLIN HUDSON, NDG

WASTE COLLECTION BLUES (1)

What a terrible job! Snooping into people's green bins.

It is bad enough, that I – a senior – have to drag my green bin to the sidewalk, but now, it seems, my bag is not compostable

enough!

The city of Westmount should supply a sample of the acceptable waste bag, or at the very least, suggest where the citizens can purchase acceptable waste bags.

It boggles my mind. What will happen this winter? I can only imagine the chaos, with blowing snow, snow drifts, snow ploughs, *et cetera*.

Montreal winters can be frightful, and misplaced garbage, waste and recycling containers will only add to the problem. Blown containers could cause havoc, as well as being dangerous!

Tread carefully!

BEVERLEY HUTCHISON, KITCHENER AVE.

WASTE COLLECTION BLUES (2)

If, as letter writer Rony Cukier suggests (August 20, p. 6), the costs of reverting back to the old garbage collection methods would cost homeowners roughly only \$35 per year, I say: “Where can I sign up for that deal?”

Collectively, we have no compunction about paying \$40 or \$225 per year for the privilege of a green or a red parking sticker in order to park on our streets (streets, which by the way, are already funded by our property tax dollars).

This said, why would anyone object to paying \$35 [per year] to have our garbage hauled away as in the past rather than having to take everything down to the sidewalk on an icy, snow-covered, -18°C-degree day in January?

On top of that, think how much improved our cityscape would be, because trash cans, garbage bags and other household junk would remain out of sight, rather than being visible for hours on end at the foot of our driveways and on city sidewalks.

Sounds like an idea whose time has come.

ALLEN RUBIN, LEXINGTON AVE.

WASTE COLLECTION BLUES (3)

The letter written by Rony Cukier (August 20, p. 6) concerning the economics of the new trash collection policies hits the nail right on the head.

But beyond the economics presented in that letter, the city has failed its citizens, many of whom are elderly, frail or handicapped. Without so much as an ounce of consultation, the city foisted its agenda on the citizenry, and despite the overwhelming opposition to new policies, as witnessed in the many letters the *Independent*, council continues to turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to the hardships and potential dangers that the collection policies will create, particularly in the winter months.

Mayor Smith and council, like Montreal mayor
cil, like Montreal mayor
continued on p. 7

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Valérie Plante, profess to listen to the citizenry. However, similar to the overwhelming opposition over the closure of the Camillien Houde roadway and the parking-meter fiasco in downtown Montreal, both of which were ignored by Mme Plante, so too does Westmount appear to ignore the pleas and concerns of its taxpayers.

Will it take a serious injury, a broken hip, a heart attack or worse to finally convince council that the savings realized in the new routine are not worth the pain and suffering the new policy will create? I certainly hope not, but the final tale will only be told during the winter months.

JOE RUSSO, SHERBROOKE ST.

ANTI-SEMITISM PROBLEM MORE WIDESPREAD THAN CAMPUSES

Re Anthony Housefather & Deborah Lyons' guest column (August 20, p. 7).

Anthony and Deborah: I hope all is well. I saw your column in the *Westmount Independent*.

Why is it that you make no mention of Hamas supporters or of any of the other local Jew haters who show up regularly to give voice to their hatred at the building housing the Israeli consulate on Wood and de Maisonneuve?

The link to local campus Jew hate action seems evident. Or has this not occurred to you?

DAVID LEVY, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

CHARGE LESS FOR ELECTRICITY

After its recent 100-percent increase to the cost per hour for charging an electric vehicle, I found it more than curious that Westmount is the only municipality in Quebec that charges \$2 per hour. I consulted the Circuit Électrique map and could not find another municipality that is not charging \$1 per hour, not Trois Rivières [Three Rivers], Gatineau, Chambly, Laval, Percé, La Malbaie [Murray Bay], Baie

Comeau, Montréal, Sherbrooke, Lac Brome,

I also found it more than curious that Westmount is well into the process of expending an exorbitant \$4,000,000 to install artificial turf at Marianopolis. All the ecological reasons for not installing such a surface are well known to everyone except the "flat-earth gang." Why is Westmount pandering to the soccer lobby when it has several natural grass fields that if properly rotated for regrowth would be exemplary?

And yet Westmount does not even have an action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions! It has no reporting of environmental indicators, no listing of incentives to encourage its citizens to move towards a sustainable lifestyle. How is it possible that the most prosperous and well educated city in Canada is not leading in countering the disastrous effects of climate change that are upon us? Are we complicit in Jasper's burning?

Our dissuasion of electric vehicles, our financial backing of environmental sterile heat islands, our refusal to have an effective, leading-edge action plan against greenhouse gas emissions are indicators that our mayor and council would like us to be known as the Firebugs from Westmount. Within the existential crisis of the climate catastrophe a more shameful epithet could not be found.

ROGER JOCHYM, LEWIS AVE.

TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO DEFEND CONSTITUTION

The Independent received this press release August 23

The Trudeau government, through the attorney-general of Canada, Arif Virani, is refusing to defend the constitution of Canada. In a motion filed in Quebec Superior Court in late July, it is asking for a hearing to dismiss its role as a party in a constitutional challenge undertaken by the

Task Force on Linguistic Policy in May of 2023. *The initial hearing is scheduled for August 29.*

The Task Force's challenge against Bill 96 names the attorneys general of Quebec and Canada as parties. It involves six plaintiffs, including Task Force president Andrew Caddell, whose lives have been detrimentally affected by the law.

The reason for inclusion of the Trudeau government in the case is its failure to defend the constitution of Canada against the unilateral declaration of Quebec as an exclusive French-speaking "nation" in the constitution. It is also due to the incorporation of the Charter of the French Language, as amended by Bill 96, in Bill C-13, the new federal Official Languages Act.

"This action, which has clearly been signed off by Attorney General Virani, is shameful and irresponsible," said Caddell. "We will fight it tooth and nail, as we are determined to defend the constitution, even as the Trudeau government refuses to do so. We will continue with our pursuit of both governments in court, despite this distraction. And we are confident the motion to dismiss will be rejected."

The five-page motion repeatedly says the attorney general of Canada is not an appropriate respondent challenging Bill 96, a provincial statute, stating "The impugned provisions were not enacted by the parliament and the federal government does not have any authority to apply them." The Task Force's legal team, Michael Bergman and Associates, deliberately targeted the attorney general of Canada because of his failure to defend the constitution and due to the inclusion of a provincial statute, Bill 96, in a federal law, Bill C-13.

Founded in 2021, the Task Force on Linguistic Policy is the only grassroots not-for-profit organization funded through public donations advocating for linguistic rights and bilingualism. Learn more at www.TheTaskForce.ca info@thetaskforce.ca

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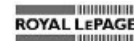
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Westmount Square tunnel escalator closed for 'preventive maintenance'



The top of the closed escalator and an "Otis" sign at the Wood Ave. entrance of Westmount Square, as seen August 22.



The bottom of the closed escalator at the Wood Ave. entrance of Westmount Square, as seen August 22.

BY JENNIFER BALL

Affixed to the bottom of the escalator at the Alexis Nihon-Westmount Square tunnel's Wood Ave. entrance is a sign that says it is closed for "preventive maintenance," however a Tower 3 resident of Westmount Square told the *Independent* that the escalator has been *kaputt* for months.

She preferred to remain anonymous, but said she uses the tunnel every week and sometimes daily, and that was her observation.

When in operation, the escalator liberates shoppers and residents (many of whom are elderly) from walking up 18 steps from the tunnel to Westmount Square's "C-level" as the attendant at the information booth called it - of the shopping mall. This is the retail or concourse level. There is only an ascending escalator at the location and not a descending one.

Preventive maintenance is the act of regularly performing scheduled mainten-

ance activities to help prevent failures in the future. Put simply, it's about fixing things before they break.

But the *Independent* checked the escalator every day the week of August 19 and wondered why there had been no workers on site.

One source has relayed to the *Independent* that there was a water leak above the escalator (see story below). Could this be a contributing factor to the shutdown?

On August 21, the *Independent* reached out to Amir Chouyoukh, who has been a property manager at Creccal Investments Ltd., for five years, to get an understanding of the schedule and scope of work on the escalator maintenance but he did not respond by the *Independent's* press time.

Signage at the escalator displayed the company name "Otis," which manufactures, installs and services elevators and escalators. The *Independent* contacted Jodi Hynes in its press relations department on August 21.

She was asked to explain when Otis had been notified to provide preventive maintenance on the escalator, what the scope of the maintenance job was and when the

escalators would be operational again. No response was received in time for the *Independent's* printing deadline.

Another water leak in Alexis Nihon-Westmount Square tunnel



What appears to be water damage on the ceiling above a pipe that is running into a water bucket in the tunnel between Westmount Square and the Atwater Metro station, as seen August 20.

BY JENNIFER BALL

The pedestrian tunnel that connects Westmount Square to Alexis Nihon and the Atwater Metro station showed evidence of recent water damage: the same issue that forced a closure of the tunnel between January 12 and 22 of this year (see January 30, p. 15).

A resident of Tower 3, who preferred to remain anonymous, spoke to the *Independent* on August 13 indicating that she had recently attended the annual general meeting of Westmount Square's residential

Towers 2 and 3, which revealed that "There are still leaks over the escalator down to the Metro level, and in the tunnel midway to the Metro."

As with the perhaps-related issue of the closed escalator (see story above), the *Independent* reached out August 21 to Amir Chouyoukh, who is a property manager at Creccal, asking for specific details on the water leak in the midway part of the tunnel between Westmount Square, the Atwater Metro and Alexis Nihon shopping mall.

No response was received in time for the *Independent's* printing deadline.

Who owns the Westmount Square tunnel?

Through an investigation that the *Independent* undertook for its May 6-7, 2008 issue (p. 1), the consensus seemed to be that "Westmount Square" was responsible for the tunnel, although there were other views.

Currently, Westmount Square is owned by two entities.

Creccal Investments Ltd., owns the retail concourse and the two office towers (1 & 4), and Westmount Square Residential Limited Partnership, owns the two towers (2 & 3) of residential units. Residents of Westmount Square's towers 2 and 3, are largely *de facto* condo owners (see November 29, 2022, p. 9, January 30, p. 15.)

Creccal Investments Ltd. bought its part of Westmount Square in 2015.

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Rabbit sighted



This rabbit was seen on Claremont at Westmount Ave. August 23. Circled added by *Independent*.
PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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Carricaburu Ortiz heads this year's effort Westmount's Terry Fox run returns September 15

BY JENNIFER BALL

Marina Carricaburu Ortiz has taken over the organization of the Westmount Terry Fox run, and it is certain to take place, she says, unlike last year's, which was cancelled.

The run is on September 15 at the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG), which is found between Hallowell Ave. and Hillside Lane behind Westmount High. In-person registration starts at 10 am and the starting-line tape will be *in situ* at 11 am. The run will conclude at 1 pm.

"We are going to meet before the run at the baseball diamond," Carricaburu Ortiz said.

"The Westmount Terry Fox run is to complete a minimum of one kilometer. They tell me it is 450 meters a lap, so we are going to suggest people run two laps to complete that one kilometer..."

"Of course, people can do more if they wish to."

Online registration possible

People can register online at run.terryfox.ca/69779 and they can also make donations there. The goal is to raise \$3,000, of which \$725 has already been raised.

There is some street parking available on Hallowell and Hillside Lane, but it is limited. The STM's Number 90 bus is also an option.

When Carricaburu Ortiz spoke to the *Independent* on August 22, she indicated it had initially been dubious, at best, if the run would even take place this year. She said it was cancelled last year and the previous organizer for this year's run stepped away before reaching the finish line.

She was only approached to manage the sporting and charitable event the week of August 12 but immediately set plans in motion.

A Westmount resident, Carricaburu Ortiz works at the Metro grocery store, which is found on Victoria Ave. at Sherbrooke.

Introduced to Terry Fox run by son

She emigrated with her family from Mexico 10 years ago and she said she first heard Terry Fox's story when her son was asked by his school to run in the event and collect donations.

"He would come home from school with his donation paper, but we really didn't know anyone, so he ended up returning with just \$10 and it was from us."



Marina Carricaburu Ortiz on August 23 outside the Metro grocery store on Victoria Ave.

She knew they could better.

Carricaburu Ortiz said her employer was kind enough to allow her son to sit at a table in the Metro grocery store with his handmade greeting cards to raise money for the Terry Fox Foundation.

"People were very generous, and over three years, he raised a lot of money from the customers..."

"That's how the Terry Fox run started being important to us."

We welcome your letters

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them.

Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication

the following week. Email us at: editor@westmountindependent.com

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Guest column

‘Independence Day’ for a bucket list

Dear *Westmount Independent*,

I hope this message finds you well. I’m writing to request a small favour that would mean the world to me and my friends. There’s one final item on a bucket list of ours that remains unfinished, and I’d love your help to bring it to fruition. But first, let me share our story.

In the summer of 2022, as I prepared for my move to Montreal, I found myself facing the end of August with no roommates in sight. Just as August began to sneak up on me, so did two now lifelong friends.

Clara came along most unexpectedly... through Facebook. From her home in Paris, she was looking for apartments online and responded to a stranger’s message asking to live together. She decided to take a chance on a stranger – a decision that I later came to learn was uncharacteristic of her.

Melissa came along next. My neighbour’s friend had a friend who asked a friend, whose friend knew Melissa and knew she was looking for a place to live. They say you are connected to anyone by six degrees of separation, but in our case, it only took five for us to meet.

The universe must have been saving that sixth connection so that, through me, Melissa could meet Clara.

Thanks to Mark Zuckerberg and a helpful neighbour, Clara, Melissa and I embarked on a year-long lease in an apartment in Westmount. Little did we know that Westmount would become the backdrop for a friendship full of unforgettable memories.

From the many bike rides on flat-tire bikes that we took down Sherbrooke St. to get ice cream – even on cold, five-degree days – just to give Clara the Canadian experience – to the long study sessions at the local café, Avenue G, where we took study breaks by faking ridiculous conversations so that nearby coffee drinkers would get a laugh from our outrageous tales.

We even “borrowed” some kale from city street plots to make salad (sorry about that – it was the end of the season!). From joining a running club and then hiding behind the bushes of houses when we were too weak to run but too proud to tell them we quit – Westmount was at the forefront of it all.

These moments might seem trivial to an outsider, but they represent the heart of the unique micro-culture we created in our little corner of Montreal. Westmount became our home, not just a place we lived.

Now, as I mentioned, Clara was from Paris. This meant that at the end of the year, she was to return. We decided to make a bucket list before she left, with 28 things we had to do. Some were simple and mundane but highlighted the joy of Montreal, such as visiting poutine spots. Some were classic tourist destinations, such as Orange Julep or sunset at the Oratory. Some were out of our comfort zone, like rock-and-roll swing dancing or yoga in the park. However simple or ridiculous, we did them all and took a picture each time to document the moment. The final



Clara Marcaillou, Catalina Claus and Melissa DeAngelis seeing off Clara at the airport bus stop in front of Lionel Groulx Metro station in St. Henri in late August 2023

item on our list? To be featured in the *Westmount Independent*.

Throughout the year, we eagerly awaited each new edition of your paper, reading it cover to cover and decorating our fridge with ripped-out pages. Unfortunately, time slipped away, and we missed our chance to be featured before we all went our separate ways.

Now, a year after we scattered across the globe, we’re reuniting in Paris [the week of August 12]. It would bring me immense joy to surprise Clara with a copy of the *Westmount Independent* featuring our story and finally complete our bucket list.

I kindly ask if you could consider publishing our tale in your journal. It would mean so much to us and bring our journey full circle.

Catalina Claus now lives downtown.

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This concrete block has been on the front lawn of Victoria Hall since at least August 9, as seen August 21. There is another block to the east, just visible at top left. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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Police Report

Authorities report two burglaries, two stolen vehicles

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Burglaries at a Westmount business and at a private home, as well as two car thefts, kept police at Station 12 on Stanton St. busy in recent weeks.

During the early morning hours of August 16, a Toyota Tundra full-size pickup truck was stolen around 3:30 am from a parking spot on Bruce Ave. in lower Westmount.

Two nights later, a Toyota Highlander crossover SUV with Ontario licence plates was stolen in the middle of the night while

parked on Grosvenor Ave.

Although there were no indications of force being used to steal the Tundra, the investigators found broken window glass on the ground where the Highlander was parked before being driven off.

Tools stolen

Around 5 pm on August 18, a business with a garage located near the corner Greene Ave. and St. Antoine St. was robbed of several tools by a suspect who had entered through an inadequately secured window.

Empty house broken into

On August 19 around 9 pm, the rear door of a home on Clarke Ave. was forced open.

Police who later turned up to investigate couldn't determine if anyone had entered, but concluded nothing had been stolen.

However, since the dwelling was up for sale and was unoccupied at the time, they also concluded there was probably nothing of value inside to be stolen.

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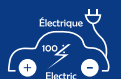
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As seen on Prince Albert Ave. above de Maison-neuve July 28 and on Victoria Ave. below Sherbrooke July 29. Do things in Westmount happen at a snail's pace? Is "Being nobody, going nowhere" terrible advice worthy of being tossed? Or is it good advice that is being discarded because no one is listening? Or are its practitioners so self-effacing that the book can be chucked? "Being nobody, going nowhere, book-less"?

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

We welcome your letters

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Email us at:
editor@westmountindependent.com

Is it an art installation?



Photo & headline courtesy of Tzippy Corber. *Editor's reply:* This garage (located between the municipal parking lot on Victoria north of Sherbrooke and Sherbrooke itself) is municipal property, so you could ask the city, or its representatives could reply for these pages. – DP.

Soutenez les **jeunes patients atteints de cancer** hospitalisés à l'unité de soins de Sarah de l'Hôpital de Montréal pour enfants !

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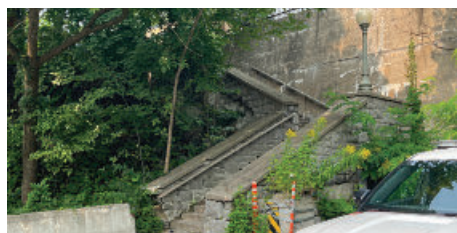
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NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Monday, September 9



Fermeture temporaire des escaliers Stanton/Thornhill

Le 4 septembre, les escaliers entre la rue Stanton et l'avenue Thornhill seront fermés. Un projet de restauration est prévu débuter en 2025.

westmount.org



Temporary closure of the Stanton/Thornhill stairs

Starting September 4, the stairs between Rue Stanton and Avenue Thornhill will be closed. A restoration project is planned to begin in 2025.

westmount.org

Projet pilote — Îlot Claremont

La Ville réalise un projet pilote autour de l'îlot formé par les avenues Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Claremont et Westmount. Les résultats de ce projet pilote informeront le projet de reconstruction de l'avenue Claremont, planifié pour l'été 2025. engage.westmount.org

Travaux sur le boulevard Dorchester

Le projet de réfection de la route sur le boulevard Dorchester entre la rue Sainte-Catherine et l'avenue Greene, en direction est, se poursuivra les samedis du mois d'août.

westmount.org

Sports et loisirs : inscriptions pour les activités d'automne

La période d'inscription pour les résidents et les non-résidents est en cours. Consultez le guide des activités pour l'automne en ligne.

westmount.org/inscriptionenligne

Célébration du 150^e anniversaire de Westmount

Le 9 octobre au Victoria Hall, soyez des nôtres pour une soirée élégante et festive ! Célébrez la Ville en honorant les personnes et lieux qui ont façonné notre communauté. westmount.org

Claremont Triangle — Pilot Project

The City has implemented a pilot project around the triangle formed by Avenues Claremont, Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, and Westmount. The results of this pilot project will inform the Avenue Claremont reconstruction project, planned for summer 2025. engage.westmount.org

Roadworks on Boulevard Dorchester

The road resurfacing project on eastbound Boulevard Dorchester, between Rue Sainte-Catherine and Avenue Greene, will take place on Saturdays in August.

westmount.org

Sports & Recreation: registration for fall activities

The registration period for residents and non-resident is underway. Consult the fall sports and recreation activities guide online.

westmount.org/online-registration

Celebrate Westmount's 150th anniversary

October 9 at Victoria Hall, be part of an elegant and festive evening! Celebrate the City and honour the people and places that have shaped our community.

westmount.org

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Visites de la Bibliothèque

Jusqu'en décembre. Célébrez le 125^e anniversaire de la Bibliothèque ! Découvrez son histoire, son architecture et les activités qui y sont planifiées. Visites en français ou en anglais. Inscription individuelle, places limitées.

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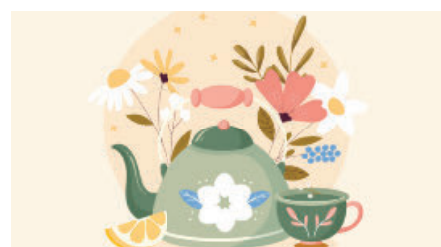
Film dans le parc — Star Wars : A New Hope (1977)

Judi 29 août, 20 h, parc Westmount. En anglais. Rejoignez-nous pour une projection sous les étoiles. Des prix seront offerts pour les meilleurs costumes thématiques du film. N'oubliez pas votre chaise ou votre couverture !

westmount.org

150^e anniversaire de Westmount : l'heure du thé

Judi 5 septembre, 14 h - 16 h, cour du Conservatoire. Rejoignez vos voisins pour l'heure du thé. Thé et scones seront servis sur fond de musique jazz. Gratuit et ouvert à tous et toutes. Aucune inscription n'est requise. westmount.org



La fête de clôture du Club de lecture d'été TD

Samedi 7 septembre, 14 h, Victoria Hall, avec Sciences en Folie® de Montréal. Prix, rafraîchissements et divertissement! Les membres du Club de lecture d'été TD peuvent obtenir leurs billets au comptoir des enfants. 514 989-5229 ou wwayling@westmount.org

Activités d'automne pour enfants

La période d'inscription est présentement en cours pour les programmes d'automne de la Bibliothèque pour enfants. Découvrez la brochure d'automne de la Bibliothèque au westlib.org

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS



Library Tours

Until December. Celebrate the Library's 125th anniversary! Join us on a tour to learn its history and architecture, and hear about the activities happening throughout the year. Tours available in French or in English. Register individually. Individual registration, limited places. Info: 514 989-5355 or refdesk@westmount.org

Movie in the Park — Star Wars : A New Hope (1977)

Thursday, August 29, 8 p.m. Westmount Park. Join us for a screening under the stars. Prizes will be given for best themed costume. Don't forget to bring your chair or blanket! westmount.org

Westmount 150: Afternoon Tea

Thursday September 5, 2 - 4 p.m. Conservatory courtyard. Join your neighbours in front of Westmount's historic Conservatory for teatime as part of the City's 150th anniversary celebrations. With tea, scones, and live jazz music. Free and open to all. No registration required. westmount.org

TD Summer Reading Club Closing Party

Saturday, September 7, 2 p.m. Victoria Hall, with Mad Science® of Montreal. Prizes, entertainment, refreshments! TD Summer Reading Club members may pick up their free tickets at the children's desk. 514 989-5229 or wwayling@westmount.org

Fall activities for children

Registration is now open for fall programmes at the Children's Library. Discover the Library's fall brochure at westlib.org



Previous owner Callard 'knows the right recipe': new owner Kyriakopoulos

A second 'Nick' takes the reins at Greene Ave. destination Nick's

BY JENNIFER BALL

The late Nick Alevisatos was the eponymous founder of Westmount's Chez Nick restaurant (also known as "Nick's" or "Chez Nick's"), but Nicos Kyriakopoulos (who also answers to Nick) purchased the restaurant at the start of the year and is now the sole proprietor.

Few places in the city have a storied history to pair with their menus, but having been around since 1920, Chez Nick does.

Alevisatos, a Greek immigrant, operated the restaurant, which is located on Greene Ave. near Sherbrooke, from 1920 to 1970 and then passed the torch to his son Tom, who ran it from 1970 until 1995.

Callard purchased in 1995

Rob Callard, who succeeded Tom by coming back to manage the restaurant in 1990 and then purchasing it in 1995, completed the sale to Kyriakopoulos in January and his succession plan duplicates the one he received from his mentor.

Callard said that although the legal transfer took place January 1, he is still working at the restaurant advising Kyriakopoulos in client relations and assorted topics.

"We have an agreement that he is paying me over a period of time, and I am working for him over that transition."

Both men wanted the transition to go seamlessly. "With me backing off slowly and him taking over gradually and that is



New Nick's owner Nicos Kyriakopoulos, centre, with servers Caroline Laroche, left, and Julianne Brewster at the restaurant on August 19.

exactly how Tom and I did it...

"It also makes it economically feasible for Nico. I am letting him pay me out of the operational profits of the restaurant, like Tom did with me."

Callard, who started at Chez Nick to put himself through university, said that after COVID and some health issues he felt he needed to look after himself.

"I am still going to work; I really like working but maybe not to the degree that I have been in the last 40 years..."

"I am proud of the fact that [the restaurant] has survived and that it is still a going concern," Callard said. He attributes the restaurant's success to consistency, quality and having an eye on hospitality.

Kyriakopoulos started as a cook

Kyriakopoulos started as one of the cooks in the kitchen. "When I first started working here, I would tease [Callard] because [the restaurant] had my name and I said that I was going to be [a partner] here."

Kyriakopoulos says that he is learning every day from Callard. "I see the way Rob manages the floor and how he is with the clients. He knows their stories and they know his stories. His talent for public relations is phenomenal..."

"I'm learning a lot of stuff from him, and he will still be around [for as long as he decides he wants to be]."

Chez Nick, after Auberge St. Gabriel in Old Montreal, is the oldest surviving restaurant in Quebec at its original location, to the *Independent's* knowledge. That legacy and Callard's 34 years of experience is aiding Kyriakopoulos, he said, in his day-to-day operations.

"You keep seeing the little ones come to the restaurant and then they grow up and then they have little ones... He's good, Rob! He's good with the people," Kyriakopoulos said.

"He knows the right recipe, I guess."



Former but still-at-work Chez Nick owner Rob Callard at the restaurant on August 20.

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Rotary report

Dr. Labos answers: Does coffee cause cancer?

BY JENNIFER BALL

Cardiologist Dr. Christopher Labos addressed the question as to why food headlines can be frequently contradictory at a book launch for his recent work of non-fiction: *Does Coffee Cause Cancer? And 8 more myths about the food we eat*.

He did so at a July 17 Westmount Rotary club meeting at Victoria Hall, where he gave an outline of the common ways data can be misinterpreted.

“I like to debunk things,” Dr Labos wrote in the book’s preface, and he has been doing this regularly for CTV and CBC news viewers and for readers of his column in *The Gazette*.

He is also an associate with the McGill office of science and society and co-hosts the award-winning podcast *The Body of Evidence*. On occasion, he even treats cardiology patients, he says, so he can “buy groceries.”

Spoke at Rotary

Dr. Labos explained to Rotarians that often health headlines imply that a correlation has been found, but that it is incorrect to say that correlation implies causation. In addition, a false conclusion may result from reverse causation.

Reverse causation occurs when you believe that X causes Y, but Y causes X. This is a common error that people make when they look at two phenomena and wrongly assume that one is the cause while the other is the effect.

He told the *Independent* “most people should probably ignore everything they hear about food and health in terms of news headlines, because it’s probably wrong!”

After reading the book, which is published by ECW press, the public – those who do not also have a cardiology degree nor a master’s degree in epidemiology – will have a compelling reason to think critically about the food choices they make.

Red wine is an obvious example.

“We have been talking about red wine being good for you since Morley Safer did that *60 Minutes* segment back in 1991.” Dr Labos said even though it’s almost certainly not true, it persists in the public imagination.

In the book, Dr. Labos, goes back to see where some of the prevailing science on



Dr. Christopher Labos at his downtown residence on June 28. He spoke in Westmount on July 17.

healthy and unhealthy eating originates from:

“‘Breakfast is the most important meal of the day!’ – it has no scientific underpinning to it at all. It was a marketing slogan...”

“Pork being ‘the other white meat’ is completely untrue. Like any mammal, pork is red meat, no matter how you cook it.”

Circling back to the question in the title of the book, he was adamant in his reply: “Is coffee going to increase your risk for cancer? No!”

So why did all those headlines happen?

“If you were to survey the medical literature, there is not a reputable physician on the planet who is going to say that coffee increases the risk of cancer. That is absolutely absurd. And yet you have had very high-profile court

cases – one in California – where a judge said coffee had to carry warning labels.”

The World Health Organization called coffee a possible carcinogen, Dr. Labos said, “because coffee contains acrylamide... very, very small traces of it...not because of any manufacturing process but when you roast coffee you produce small amount of acrylamide, similar to when you digest food, you produce small amounts of formaldehyde.”

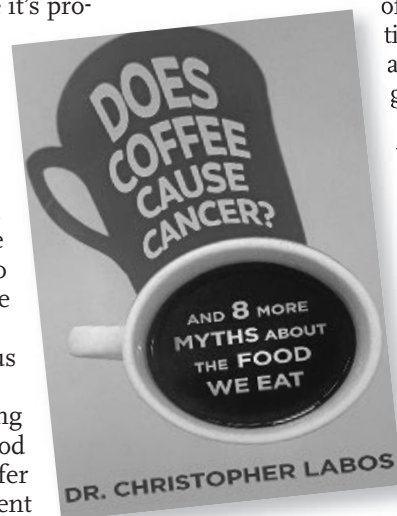
Traces not necessarily dangerous

Just because you have small traces of something in something else does not necessarily mean that it is dangerous is a key takeaway from Dr. Labos’ book.

Expanding on that, he said that in the era of the internet and AI-generated web articles a lot of what you’re going to read on the internet is probably not true.

So, you need to be better at understanding why.

“Nowadays, you must treat every day as if it’s April Fools’ Day and fact check everything you see online.”



Guardian angels for animals, on Westmount's doorstep



Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Daycare for dogs?

Sounds silly but in today's world it makes sense. Who has time to properly care for – let alone walk – a dog?

Having chanced upon Les Anges Gardiennes, I am passing on my discovery to animal lovers. Rushing into Home Dépôt, one can easily miss this one-stop shopping animal home. It's across the street on the west side of de Courcelle, just outside of Westmount.

Owner Vanessa Rose opened it in 2018, adding to her successful one in NDG (launched in 2002). A veterinary technician, she has loved all animals since a child. ("Once I rescued and rehabilitated a baby squirrel!!")



Vanessa Rose with Violet.



Happy daycare lads and lasses.

Wondering how dogs get along in a group, I popped in. What fun! A large bright room was full of tail-wagging furry friends, who also had access to an outdoor area to continue playing.

As floors were pristine, I posed the obvious query. I was shown one corner: a grassy area kept clean by the on-site "day-care angel," i.e. trained personnel.

Along with grooming, services offered are all encompassing. "We are trusted by many Montrealers," Rose explained. "We go to a home to take care of a live-in pets, such as a rabbit or bird, or we take their dog for a walk. We also pick up pets to attend our 'daycare' and bring them back. And, if people are away, we ensure that

food is out and check animals' health."

In fact, "Les Anges Gardiennes is the only facility in Montreal with a strict health policy, ensuring guests follow safety protocols, not only when with us, but also after their stay."

During COVID, cuddly guys and gals became BFF (best friends forever). However, growing up during the pandemic, they did not have the chance to socialize.

"We integrate them gradually, allowing them to make friends and learn a routine. Ultimately, this familiarity reassures them that their 'parents' will return, significantly lowering stress levels for everyone."

As well as small animals, Les Anges Gardiennes takes care of cats. In fact, a

pretty purring Violet eagerly rushed over to Vanessa for a pat – or two.

Tiny Tuesdays was introduced to help small dogs "learn to play well with others." It was such a success that smaller breeds now also arrive on Tiny Thursdays. And just like at daycares, dogs have scheduled nap times. Sounds perfect to me.

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Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

These three-month-old sibling pups need caring homes, and it is time to go visit the Montreal SPCA to bundle a sweetie in your arms and introduce him or her to family life. Aksel is a male, Yiva is a female and Inge is a male.

On the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, you will find their information pages by their identification numbers: Aksel at 2000177028, Yiva at 2000177024, and Inge at 2000177025.

Please make plans to go by the shelter to adopt, as they are healthy, up to date with their inoculations in their puppy program, sterilized and microchipped.

The SPCA is open every day on this schedule: Monday to Friday from 3 pm to 8 pm, with Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm. It is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West in Côte des Neiges, H4P 1X4.

The summer litters are now old enough for adoption. Please give puppies in need a new life.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



Aksel



Yiva



Inge



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

In temporary foster care for the Montreal SPCA, precious Maya is one of many in need of a family as soon as possible. She is doing well and growing in assurance at her foster home, and is loving and playful.

A tiny brown-and-black tabby, she is a sweet three-year-old, very healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped.

You can scroll to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, refer to Maya's information page by her identification number, 20000119957, and then click on the black rectangle titled "Fill out the form" at the upper right-hand side of the page.

The contact information that you share on this short form will enable the adoption coordinators to contact you in order to discuss adoption and interest.

Please reach out for her as a new member of your family. Please also keep in mind that, in giving pretty Maya your heart and a home, you make it possible for the foster family to help another cat in need for a new start.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

Maya of Hearts



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Wiener receives a HUG, Myra Foundation raises \$250k



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmounter Roz Wiener was recently honoured by the Myra's Kids Foundation (MKF). She was presented with the "HUG" (Helping Us Grieve) award at the foundation's annual gala.

Wiener, a board member since the organization's inception, was praised for her outstanding support as a "tireless community worker *par excellence*; with dedication, compassion and generosity."

Founded in Montreal in 2017, the foundation provides support to children who have suffered the loss of a parent or a sibling. Its mission is to help children learn to cope, begin to heal, and discover that there can be hope after a significant loss.

All programs run by the foundation are non-denominational and free to all participants, 6 to 17 years of age. Each August, campers attend the Y Country Camp in Huberdeau, Quebec for a weekend.

Building on the annual camp experience and monthly support groups offered

throughout the year, foundation services aim to have an immediate and lasting impact on children who are grieving.

Noted at the cocktail dinatoire were **Roz Wiener** and **Sam Hops**, Roz's daughters **Julie Wiener**, there with **Rich Zeidel**, and **Liana Wiener**, with **Jeff Rosenblatt**, and their daughters **Kali** and **Dani Rosenblatt**, who created a fabulous podcast (with help from Liana and Julie) about their grandmother Roz.

Listened to by an attentive crowd, it was praised with much applause. Also attending were **Emma Levy** (Roz's other granddaughter) and **Daniel Bensoussan**; MKF's founder/CEO **Jon Reider** and his wife **Ellen**, and **Corrie Sirota**, clinical director, and her husband **Andy Frankel**, as well as **Sara Goldberg** and **Stu Reider**, **Mike Reider**, and **Jessie Reider** and **Brad Reinish**.

MKF board members present were **Stan Browman**, and his wife **Elaine**, **Gwenn Garonce**, **Dominique di Fiore**, **Stu Reider**, **Meghan Weinstein**, **Michael Starr** (Ignite 2023 HUG award winner) and his wife **Elayne**, as well as event committee members **Joanne Marco**, **Ann Zilberbrant**, **Rhea Dichter**, **Sari Shapiro**, **Ashley Frankel**, **Janet Phiri** and **Stu Guttman**.

Also in attendance were **Andrew Hops**, **Eddy** and **Roz Weinstein**, **Eddy** and

Heleena Wiltzer, **Judy** and **Joe Kaback**, and **Bonnie Chodos**.

During the evening, artist **Eric Waugh** painted one of his beautiful signature pieces, which was then auctioned.

Amea Cafe collaborated with **Mimi Cukier** on a novel children's cookbook,

donating proceeds to MKF.

The special evening raised over \$250,000. myraskids.ca.

The Independent's fall social calendar will be published soon. Please send your event information to veronica@redgravepr.com.



Myra's Kids camper Mylo Bergeron Waye, Michael Starr, Roz Wiener and Jon Reider.



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Cummings Centre's breakfast honours NHLer Jordan Harris, raises \$415k



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Richard Pound was honorary chair of the Cummings Centre Foundation sports celebrity breakfast. Pound is also a board member of the Cummings Centre Foundation.

Event co-chairs were **Bram Naimer**,



Georges Laraque, Chris Nilan and Mike Cohen.



Nick Suzuki, Gloria Steinberg and Jordan Harris.

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CEO Union Lighting, and **Mike Wagen**, senior vice-president Delmar International. Guests of honour were **Rob and Paul Cutler** of Delmar International, praised for their philanthropic commitment to the foundation. Sports Personality of the Year was **Jordan Harris**, a defenceman for the Montreal Canadiens at the time who was just traded to the Columbus Blue Jackets.

“It was very special to include Jordan Harris as the sports personality of the year,” stated **Cathy Simons**, executive director of the CJCS (Cummings Centre for Jewish Seniors) Foundation. “As of March 2024, he was the only black Jewish player in the



Herb Zurkowsky, Morton Minc, Bram Naimer, Eric Myles, Richard Pound, Mike Wagen and Mark Weightman.

NHL. Harris is also a member of the NHL Player Inclusion Coalition, which works to make the sport more diverse. Likewise, the Cummings Centre and Foundation are also focused on fostering a diverse space for community members of all faiths and backgrounds to feel welcome and taken care of well into their senior years.”

Canadiens captain **Nick Suzuki** was on hand to support his teammates, as were former Habs enforcers **Chris Nilan** and **Georges Laraque**. Podcaster **Tony Marino**, who was presented with the Larry Fredericks Media Award, served as co-emcee with CTV Montreal’s **Kelly Greig**.

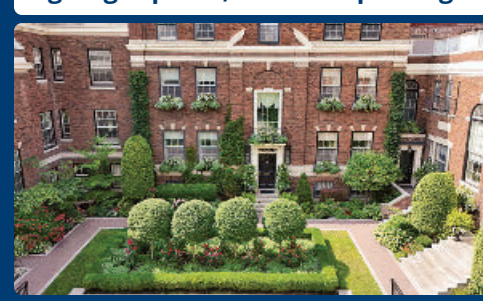
Organizers welcomed prominent UFC fighter **Natan Levy**; Canadian Olympic team wrestler **Alex Moore**; **Eric Myles**, chief sport officer for the Canadian Olympic Committee and head of Canada’s

Olympic teams, and **Mark Weightman**, president of the Montreal Alouettes, who represented the Grey Cup champions.

Before and during the event, **Jon Still** of TSN 690 hosted a special podcast that was broadcast later in the week. Also noted in a room full of young fans – many proudly wearing Canadiens sweaters – were the CJCS Foundation’s president **Morton Minc**, **Gloria Steinberg**, president CJCS, and **Mike Cohen**, Côte St. Luc city councillor and manager, marketing and communications, at the English Montreal School Board (EMSB).

The foundation raises funds to enrich and safeguard the quality of life of the growing senior population served by the Cummings Centre. The record-setting event raised more than \$415,000, bringing the 20-year total to over \$3 million.

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A finished project!



This wooden teepee (circle added by *Independent*) graces a front lawn on de Maisonneuve near Roslyn, as seen August 21. Unlike many private construction projects in the city, it appears complete – but also too small to move into.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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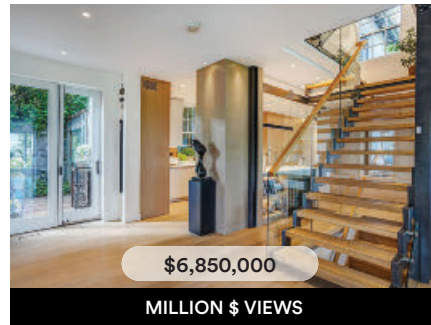
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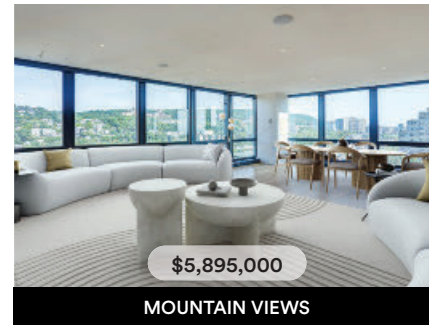
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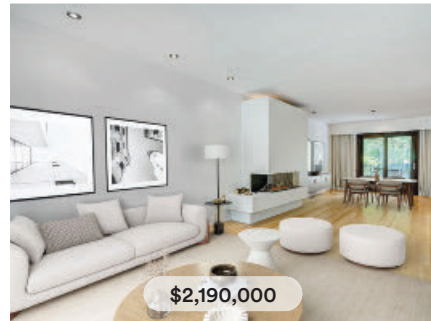
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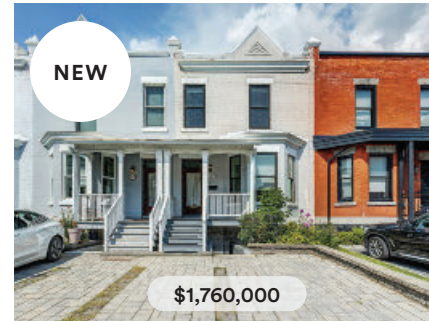
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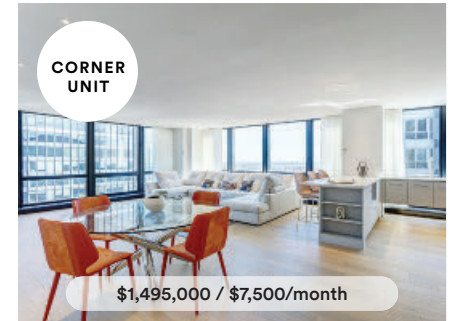
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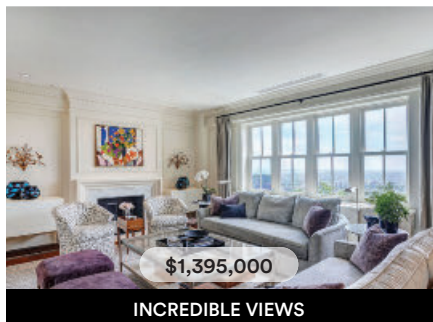
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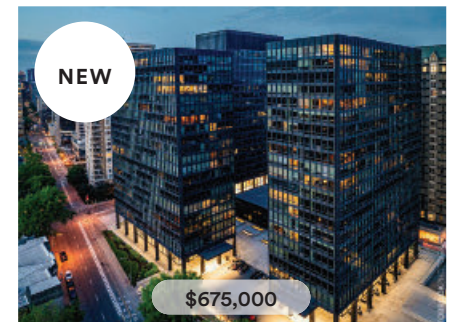
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